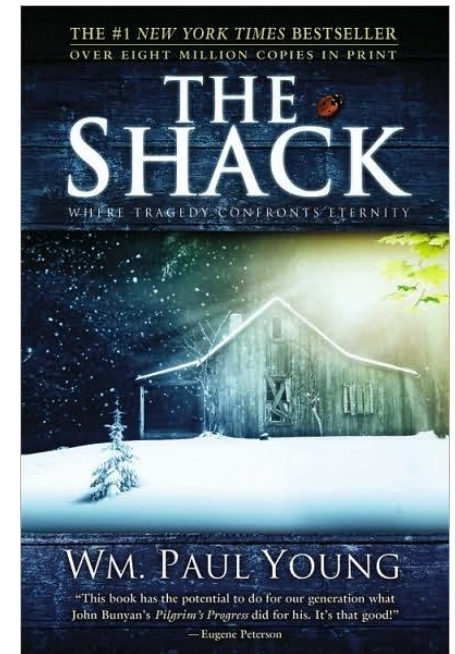


Brown Bag Book Club



Digs in & Discusses



Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009

Noon – 2pm

Activity Room

Lodi Public Library

201 W. Locust St.

Call 333-5503 for details

Discussion Questions Courtesy of

<http://bestsellers.about.com/>

<http://www.litlovers.com/>



Discussion Guide designed by
Sandy Smith, Lodi Public Library

Discussion Questions

1. Were you drawn in by the plot of *The Shack*?
2. Why do you think Mack's encounter with God took place at *the shack*? If God were to invite you somewhere, where would it be? (In other words, where is the center of your doubt and pain)?
3. Do you think suffering makes people closer to God or causes them to distance themselves from Him? What has been the pattern in your life?
4. Were you satisfied with God's answers to Mack about suffering? Do you struggle with believing God is good in light of all the tragedy in the world?
5. How is Young's description of God different from your concept of God? What parts of his description did you like and what parts didn't you like?
6. Did *The Shack* change any of your opinions about God or Christianity?
7. What were some of the things *The Shack* teaches about God, faith and life that you disagreed with?
8. Would you recommend *The Shack* to a friend?
9. Rate *The Shack* on a scale of 1 to 5.
10. How did reading this book affect your faith? Does it change, challenge, strengthen your image of God? Why is God portrayed as a woman, what reasons does God give Mack?
11. Does God answer convincingly the reason for the trinity?
12. Does the idea of God a character in the book, or God's first-person voice, bother you...or does it work within the context of *The Shack*'s story?
13. Why did God let Missy die? Do you think *The Shack* answers convincingly the central question of theodicy, the existence of evil—or why, if there is a God, bad things happen to good people?
14. What does *The Shack* say about forgiveness—toward the self or toward those who have wronged you?
15. Young has been criticized for advocating lawlessness (p. 122) ...or universalism (p. 225)? Do you think that is a fair or unfair criticism?
16. Many readers find the first 4 chapters of *The Shack* almost too painful to read. Could they have been written in a way that would be less painful—without changing the book's message?
17. Does the book's ultimate message satisfy you? Is it possible to let go of control and certainty in life? Is it possible to live only in the present?